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4/4/06  
Cane

# IN THE CLAIMS

Applicant hereby presents the claims, their status in the application, and amendments thereto as indicated:

1. – 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A support member comprising a plurality of wood plies and having a first tenon portion, a unitary body portion, and an outwardly extending second tenon portion therebetween, wherein:

the body portion is ~~the only structure supporting the first and second tenon~~  
portion formed from a single pillar,

the second tenon portion extends outwardly from at least two sides of the body  
portion,

each ply is joined to at least one other ply at one of a plurality of interfaces, the interfaces being generally parallel along a longitudinal direction of the support member, and

each ply has a grain that is approximately orthogonal to grains of adjacent plies.

8. (Original) The support member of claim 7, wherein the second tenon portion extends outwardly by a distance that is at least as great as a width of the body portion.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) the support member of claim 7 further comprising a foot protector disposed about a foot portion of the support member, the foot portion being on an opposite side of the body portion from the second tenon portion.